



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

Quarterly Roundtable with Virginia's Tribes

March 15, 2023



Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Thriving Families, Safe Children Family Resource Centers, Ronald Brown, Families Forward**
- **Safe Sleep Initiative, Carley Lansden and Brandi Peterson, VDSS**
- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Grant, Nancy Fowler, VDSS**
- **Other Updates?**

Introductions



Attendance:

Yvonne Epps-Giddings, Nottoway Indian Tribe

Lindsey Johnson, Deputy Tribal Administrator, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Susann Brown, Child Care and Development Program, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

Morgan Martin, Programs Director, Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division

Nancy Fowler, Director, Office of Family Violence, VDSS

Brenda Sampe, Project Manager/Tribal Liaison, VDSS

Ivey Tupponce, QAA Supervisor/Tribal Coordinator, VDSS

Ronald Brown, Prevention Director, Families Forward VA

Carley Lansden, Child Fatality Specialist, VDSS

Brandi Peterson, Child Fatality Prevention Initiative Coordinator, VDSS

Eric Reynolds, Director, Office of the Children's Ombudsman

Dwana Young, Program Specialist, Children's Bureau

Nikole "Nikki" Cox, Director, VDSS

Kimberly Murphy, Program Specialist, Children's Bureau

Other Updates?



Brenda: The CWSE 5020 Introduction to ICWA training for child welfare staff is now available to our community partners; can be located on the VDSS ICWA/Tribal Collaborations website: <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/icwa/>. Ivey and Brenda working on engagement/cultural awareness/competency module. We are putting together a framework and outline for our tribal leaders pulled from national research, the BIA, etc. There will be opportunity for our tribal partners to give feedback in any way that works best for our tribes. Ivey: On Feb 27, had the opportunity to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of the CIED Preschool Administration Cultural Building. This building was created out of the needs identified during the COVID-19 pandemic. Remind our tribal partners that VDSS hopes to come out to see them and visit tribal centers and make connections. Stay tuned!

Next Meeting

June 21, 2023, 11am-12:30pm



Ivey: heard there might be a conflict with another standing meeting where many of our tribal partners attend. Ivey will send out a poll to see if we need to change our meeting day and/or time (maybe move it to later in the day?).

Thriving Families Safer Children Initiative Family Resource Centers

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
FFV-2023-TFSC-01



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Singular Goal “North Star”

- In the 2020 Appropriations Act the Virginia General Assembly recognized an opportunity to make a bold, unprecedented, and coordinated commitment to prevent child abuse and neglect across the Commonwealth; and directed Virginia Department of Social Services, in partnership with numerous state agencies and non-governmental organizations, to establish a five-year child welfare Prevention Plan.
- The Key Stakeholders are the Department for Behavioral Health & Developmental Services, Department of Health, Department of Education, The Family and Children’s Trust Fund, Families Forward Virginia, Voices for Virginia’s Children, and Virginia Poverty Law Center.
- The Prevention Plan reflects a collaborative effort among 50 representatives from 29 different organizations, including those representing parent and youth voice.



All families, youth and children in the Commonwealth are safe, healthy and nurtured, and have equitable access to resources and opportunities to thrive in their communities.

Prevention Plan Objectives



1. **Well-Being and Economic Stability:** Families will have easy and equitable access to supports and services in the community that promote well-being and strengthen economic stability.



2. **Person and Family Centered Programs:** Establish and deliver effective, trauma-informed programs that are person and family-centered.



3. **Social Norms:** Transform social norms to support parents and positive parenting



4. **Collaboration:** Foster collaboration among those with lived experience, prevention partners and state agencies to better understand needs and work together towards the achievement of common goals



5. **Infrastructure:** Establish infrastructure that targets funding and resources for prevention and promotes data sharing and workforce development



Thriving Families Safer Children

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PARTNERSHIP

A Partnership that Aims to Redesign Child Welfare Into Child- and Family Well-Being Systems

September 2020, the Children's Bureau at **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** under the department of Administration for Children and Families, [Casey Family Programs](#), [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), and [Prevent Child Abuse America](#)®

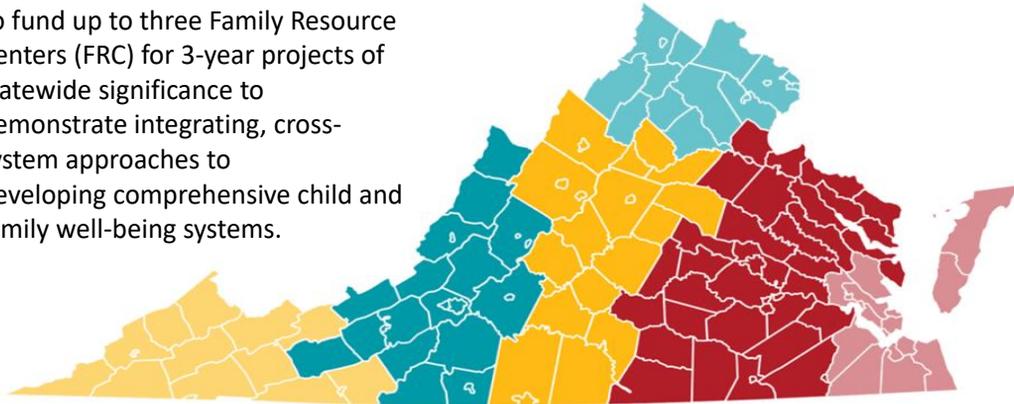
July 2022, the [National Center for Injury Prevention and Control](#) (CDC) joined the effort.



- Transformation from a reactive child protection system into a proactive child and family well-being system that will integrate equitable family supports that reduce disparities in outcomes.
- Address the complex structural issues that often contribute to families becoming involved in the child welfare system.
- Disentangle poverty from neglect so that we can provide meaningful support to strengthen families, keep children safe and prevent unnecessary entries into foster care.

Statewide Significance

To fund up to three Family Resource Centers (FRC) for 3-year projects of statewide significance to demonstrate integrating, cross-system approaches to developing comprehensive child and family well-being systems.



- Southwest
- Roanoke/Alleghany
- Charlottesville/Western/Halifax
- Northern VA
- Central
- Tidewater

The Project Outcome - Transformation from a reactive child protection system into a proactive child and family wellbeing system that will integrate equitable family supports that reduce disparities in outcomes.

Project Goals



Design and implement an integrated, cross-system approach to supporting children and families within their communities.



Design and implement an integrated approach to engage individuals with lived expertise (LEx Leaders).



Develop a robust, cross-system network of collaborative partnerships.



Decide on well-being measures that cut across human services programs.



Evaluate family support systems and the primary prevention activities and strategies implemented.

Important Dates

Funding Opportunity Title:	Family Resource Centers
Announcement Type:	Second Round
Funding Opportunity Number:	FFV-2023-TFSC-01
Initial RFA Release Date:	09/06/2022
Second Round RFA Release Date	02/22/2023
Information Meeting:	03/15/2023
Last Date for Questions:	04/26/2023
Due Date for Applications:	05/03/2023
Notice of Awards:	05/26/2023
Project Start Date:	07/01/2023



Submission

**Applications due no later
than 11:59 pm ET on
May 3, 2023**

**No Late Applications Will
Be Accepted**



Need Support???

Email: VAFRCs@familiesforwardva.org



Thriving Families Safer Children Initiative Family Resource Centers

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
FFV-2023-TFSC-01
2023





VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
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Child Protective Services Safe Sleep Guidance

March 2023



Division

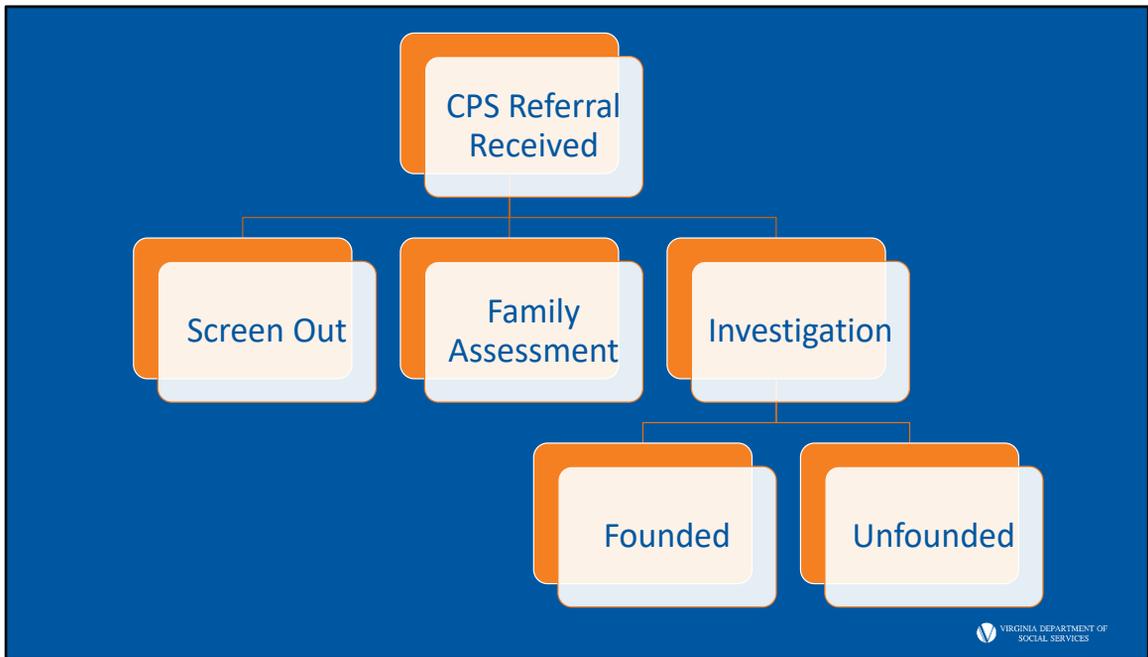
Staff Introductions

Shannon Hartung, Protection Program Manager

Carley Lansden, Child Fatality Specialist

Brandi Peterson, Child Fatality Prevention Initiative Coordinator





Brandi went over the CPS referral process briefly

Child Protective Services Guidance



CPS continues to receive large numbers of referrals regarding infants who have died in unsafe sleep environments. Because of this, CPS Guidance was updated to instruct our CPS workforce to provide education around safe sleep practices.

In Section 4.5.6.7.1 of CPS Guidance, workers are required to:

- Assess the sleep environment and sleep practices with all families who have infants and children less than two years of age at EVERY home visit
- Share safe sleep information with all families who have infants and children less than two years of age
- Document their assessments of the sleep environment, sleep practices, and that safe sleep information was provided

Because our guidance mandates that safe sleep information be shared with all families with a child under the age of two, we are currently developing a one-page educational flyer on safe sleep that will be shared with the CPS workforce, community partners, and it will also be posted on our public website. GPS Guidance is also available on our public website.

Child Fatality Data – SFY 2021

- 44% of unfounded investigations were sleep-related
- 47% of sleep-related fatalities had a safe sleep space present in the home
- 45% of sleep-related fatalities had a substance use factor



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CF Data SFY2021. 44% of unfounded investigations were sleep-related. 73 sleep-related fatalities and it was documented there was a safe sleep space present in the home. Trend of parental substance use factor involved with sleep-related fatalities. These numbers look the same over the past 3 years. Would like to see those numbers go down; unsure what the disconnect is b/c there is education/information in the public

Trends and Prevention Initiatives



- Safe sleep and parental substance use
- Regional review team recommendations
- Annual report

https://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/children/cps/all_other.cgi

Noticing a trend in unsafe sleep deaths where parental substance use is a factor. Again, this could mean that the decedent was born substance-exposed, there was substance use occurring in the home at the time of the fatality, or one of the parents/caregivers had a history of substance use. Safe sleep information is available; unsure what the disconnect as parents still practicing unsafe methods. **How to reach people? Want to work w/any community partners interested in partnering as might be more receptive hearing from a community partner vs VDSS. Every region says that safe sleep education is still needed, across the state and country**

Kimberly: are baby boxes still be given out? Carley: VDSS is not affiliated w/that program and so we are not

distributing those; unsure why. Brandi: some agencies had programs that provided Pack and Plays; going to be conducting a survey and gathering data to see where there are gaps and where we can share programs in communities, Carley will find out why stopped working w/that program. Kimberly: It might be worth looking at the data to determine if they worked to reduce infant deaths related to unsafe sleep during the years they were used.

Mandated Reporting

A call to a hotline is not an accusation, it is a request for the helping process to begin.

**After normal business hours, weekends, and holidays, call:
800-552-7086 (State Hotline)**

Reports can also be submitted through the VaCPS Mandated Reporter Portal



If you have any questions or need any additional information, please email us at:
carleya.lansden@dss.virginia.gov
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Thank you!



Susann Brown: would love to partner and bring this to our tribal center to bring to our citizens. Could help set this up. We are a subsidy program, we don't provide the direct care; lots of people don't realize how important this is. Work with providers and our tribal citizens. Ivey: can provide safe sleep information through the email listserv we've developed for our tribal partners



Nancy Fowler's presentation

Local Services

- **Comprehensive services funded through “Domestic Violence Prevention and Services” grant program**
 - Mainstream services currently exist in your area
- **Population-specific, culturally specific domestic violence services funded through “Domestic Violence for Underserved Populations” grant program**

Providing funding to community-based organization for underserved populations

Domestic Violence Prevention and Services

- **52 local DV Programs funded by VDSS**
- **Comprehensive services:**
 - Hotline
 - Access to safe shelter
 - Advocacy
 - Children's services
 - Support groups
 - Community education
 - Prevention
 - Legal advocacy
 - Transportation
 - Accompaniment

Domestic Violence Prevention and Services grants – 52 local DV Programs funded by VDSS to provide comprehensive services

DV Services for Underserved Populations

- **8 community based organizations**
- **Limited DV services**
- **Culturally relevant**
- **Population specific**
 - LGBTQ
 - Latino
 - Immigrant
 - Language specific
 - Korean & Chinese
 - Vietnamese
 - Substance Use/Harm Reduction

Some organizations not providing comprehensive DV services but culturally relevant services that is population specific. VDSS is providing funding to these organizations for limited DV services

Tribal Opportunities

- State level conversations about tribal services and community/statewide needs
- Participation in State Planning
- Building knowledge
- Engagement with state agencies
- Funding (direct or pass-through)

Currently no services that are specific to tribal communities; invite the opportunity for DV services that are tribal-specific. Enter into state-level conversations. Talk about tribal community needs; statewide need. VDSS is about to start strategic planning and would like to engage tribes in this process

Funding

FVPSA & VAWA & VOCA

- **Family Violence Prevention and Services Act**
 - Direct funding for Tribes through US Dept of Health and Human Services
 - Sub-recipient FVPSA funding through VDSS
- **Violence Against Women Act**
 - Direct funding for Tribes through US Dept of Justice
 - Sub-recipient VAWA funding through DCJS
- **Victims of Crime Act**
 - Direct funding for Tribes through US Dept of Justice
 - Sub-recipient VAWA funding through DCJS

Look at funding possibilities: 3 different funding streams,
FVPSA, VAWA, and VOCA

DV and SV Conversations

Invitations coming
We would value and
appreciate your
involvement!

Nancy.fowler@dss.virginia.gov



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Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence
ACTION ALLIANCE



DV and SV conversations – Nancy invites tribal leaders to spend time talking about services and how local services can be improved to be more relevant and culturally humble in provision of services to tribal communities – will be sending out an invitation to these meetings with VDSS, DCJS and Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Brenda: is there data collected re: demographics re: survivors who have affiliation with tribal communities? Kimberly: The Youth Risk Behavior Survey may have some. Nancy: demographic information might not be collected properly for those

limited people who provide that information. Part of what Nancy would like to impact. Maybe a way to change how we collect information and would like to have those experts provide that input

Kimberly: Youth Risk Behavior Survey – re: sexual violence, break out by population (for youth); trending in the wrong direction; some children not going to school b/c of safety concerns

Lindsey: I think Nancy is absolutely correct in regard to misclassification. That is a constant problem. Having culturally appropriate materials regarding DV/SA would be very beneficial.

Nancy: if an invitation was sent to all of the tribes, do you think there would be positive reception in creating an opportunity to talk more about what would be helpful in creating DV/SV services? Lindsey said there would be. Natives don't often see materials specific to us with faces that look like us. Maybe more folks would speak up if they see those resources. =